

WINTER 2016

On the Trail

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EL DORADO NATURE CENTER FRIENDS & VOLUNTEERS

What's New?

It's been awhile since we've had an update, and a lot has been going on here at the Nature Center. With the sounds of singing birds, and the rustle of leaves falling from the trees, visitors and staff have also had the joy of hearing the pounding of walls and jack hammering of cement. The noises created by construction can be exciting because it symbolizes change, and renewal.

I think the staff that survived the daily craziness would think differently. I would like to say "thank you" to all who endured the past few months, and to the visitors who were inconvenienced. The end result will be wonderful.

For those of you who are not aware of the changes going on, here is a recap: Last summer our Entry Way Project was slated to break ground in July. During the planning and approval phase it was discovered that our Visitors Center was in need of ADA upgrades to the restroom facilities and access ramp. The entryway and bathroom projects could have happened simultaneously, but this would have caused us to close down the facility during a portion of the construction. Not wanting to impact our programming or access to the Visitors Center, it was decided to split them up. The restrooms and walkway were completed in early December 2015.



The larger portion of the project is planned to begin in mid July 2016, which will include entry bridge construction, amphitheater removal and relocation, new pathways and exploration areas, entry sign and gates.

While the construction project goes through the last of the design and bidding phases, we had to make some "colorful" additions for safety reasons. Many of you might have

noticed the bright green Astroturf that is covering the bridge. No, we are not starting a miniature golf course if you were wondering. The decking below was starting to wear in places that were difficult to patch. With the hopes of creating a more even surface in the interim, it was decided to try this. It's holding up good so far, but we are desperately anticipating our new bridge. So until the new bridge is installed if you feel the need to play through or putt for birdie, just be aware of the water traps.- **Meaghan O'Neill**
Supervising Park Naturalist

**Special "Friends" only event.
Spring Equinox Sunrise Walk**

**Saturday, March 19, 2016 7:00 AM
Space is limited.**

Call (570) 570-1745 for more information.

EARTH DAY COASTAL CLEANUP

Join us! Saturday, April 23, 2016 10am - noon

**At the Belmont Pier or call (562) 570-1745 for information
about other cleanup sites.**

Notes from a Naturalist

Look What Spring Brings

Now it's time to start seeing the results of your efforts in the garden. The wildflower seeds have germinated and the seedlings are getting bigger. It won't be long before the profusion of color bursts and the pollinators start zeroing in on them. Look for the White-lined Sphinx moths hovering at them while nectaring and ovipositing on the Clarkias. Their caterpillars get three inches long and have a curved horn on the rear end. This hummingbird moth flies night or day.

The Western Redbud tree was among the first to bloom here at the Nature Center. Ceanothus and Flannel Bush are soon to follow. Sages and Coyote Mint attract the beautiful Western Tiger Swallowtails in quantities along with the other regulars.



Painted Lady Butterfly, photo credit Kim Moore

Keep your eyes open near the end of the month of March for possible large migrations of another butterfly with similar coloration as the Monarch. With sizable amounts of winter rain in the deserts of San Diego and Imperial Valleys the many larval host plants of the Painted Lady provide lots of food for millions of polyphagous caterpillars which as adults fly as far as Washington state.

You might try the North American Butterfly Association site <http://www.naba.org/> to get more ideas on butterfly gardening. We do a count with them every July. The hope is to create native corridors between the 'wild areas' and the urban thus increasing habitat and the number of species it sustains.

— **Richard James**

Preschoolers in Action!

Some of our Preschool in Nature students had the opportunity to work with Naturalist/ Master Gardener Donnie Haigh. Donnie instructed the children on the tools needed to prep the soil and taught them how to sow native wildflower seeds. A great time was had by all, and the children are excited to monitor the fruits of their labor.



Donnie Haigh

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editor: Tara Sievers — 562.570.1749
tara.sievers@longbeach.gov

El Dorado Nature Center
7550 E Spring St
Long Beach, CA 90815

Nature Center: 562.570.1745
Friends of El Dorado Nature Center: 562.570.4935

Regional Park Info: 562.570.1773
Regional Park Reservations: 562.570.3111

Find us on the web at www.longbeach.gov/naturecenter

**Thanks so much for the support of our current Friends Members! Don't see your name?
Stop by or give us a call and we can help you renew your membership.**



Annette Alender	Grace Earl	Angela LaMatta	Chuck Rulon
Marianne Appel	Rita Edwards	Robert Lamond	Dorothy Rypka
Virginia Aragon	Cynthia Evans	Lappen Family Foundation	Pamela Salyer
Susie Archer	Barbara & Bruce Falk	Bonnie Lebherz (in memory of)	Natalino & Carmelina Scalas
Alexander Balmania	Mike Farris	Rita & Len Lee	Walt & Judy Schenkel
A.E. Barnett	Tracey Felton	Sue Lemmerman	Lou & Norma Schumow
Jeff Barrad	Martin Fiebert	Cara & Mark Lies	Ruth Schwartz
Vince & Kay Beck	Stephanie Fisher	Steven Liivoja	Shelley Scott
Mike Beckage	June Fukuhara	CJ Lindenberg	Natalie Sellers
Robert Bellinger	Donna & Marc Furon	Mia Lipski	Mike & Barbara Sentovich
Tito Benavides	Pinky & Roger Gagnon	Lynne Lockwald	Jen-Mei Shih
Patricia Benoit	Dorothy Geisler	Patrick & Dorothy Lucey	Ron & Tere Sievers
Karen Berg	Annie & Morgan Gills	Maria McCloud	Dee Anne Smith
Michael Blount	Billie Glozer	Meredyth McClure	Catherine Solorio
Susan Bos	Charles Greenwood	Wendy McClure	Bridget Spanea
Becky Bosdet	Malcolm Groff	Betty Diane McCown	Dawn Spiker
Lu & John Bowden	Liz Gwin	Susi Miles	Renee Stasiak
Margaret Brandt	Ellen Halloran	Roberta Miller	Katherine Syroboyarsky
Donna Bray	Patrick & Shana Halloran	Larry & Megan Minsky	Laura Tanner
Marilee Bryant	Paul & Kathy Hanson	Kim Moore	Pat Testerman
Jill Brennan	Janet Hartmann-Jones	Marilyn Moore	Robbi & Gary Tingstad
Deirdre Brooker	John & Donna Hinrichs	Joe Mos	Frances Tomich
Peggy Brutsche	Karyn & Joannie	Ann & William Naftel	Rodney Tsukashima
Doug & Rose Bucklew	Holderbaum-Spring	William & Elizabeth Nash	Debbie Vince
Elaine Burdell	Paul Horn	Rommel Navarro	Tina Vince
Debbie Byrne	Beverly & Jim Hutchison	Autumn Nazarian	Bill Viola
Ann Cantrell	Janet Ibison	Roy Nesvold	Shelly Walther
Tom & Lynda Capel	Derek Jones	Mary Ann & John Newport	Dave & Kashka Warden
Betty Christensen	Bernard & Donna Jorge	Daniel Nigro	Harriet Warner
Brian Coakley	Han-Pin & Della Kan	Lisa Noble	Hank Warzybok
Alan Coles	Lisa Karpf	Bob & Sharon O'Connor	David Wilborn
Gloria Culpepper	Margo Kasdan	Oksana Orel	Steve & Pat Witt
Valerie Colucci	Emily Kauppi	George & Lynn Pardon	Ingeborg Witthuhn
Charles Courdy	Willa Kay	Russ & Kathy Parsons	Judy Wolfe
Susan Csikesz	Jane Kaylor	Kira Perov	Leah Young
Meridel Daniels	Dale & Deborah Ketcham	Jeffrey Rabin	Chuck & Priscilla Zook
Gehl Davis	Paul Kiley	Patricia Reed	Edgar Zwieback
Susan Dewey	Kenton Kimmel	Mildred Reynolds	
Wayne Dodds	Esperanza Koch-Perez	Susan Roberge	
John Downey	Linda Kovanda	Lynda Roberts	

Hi and Bye



Michelle Vieville

We would like to wish Michelle Vieville a wholehearted farewell as she leaves El Dorado Nature Center to join Long Beach Public Works. She was a treasure both as an employee and team member. Now, a mother of three, she is ready to embark on a new life. We would like to thank her for her support and guidance throughout her 13-year tenure.



Matt Billingham and
Karen Thompson

We have added two very motivated staff to the team. Say hi to Matt Billingham and Karen Thompson. Matt was a habitat steward volunteer before being hired on. Karen, a former naturalist, could not stay away for too long. Both are usually seen working the Insect Zoo in our museum.

— **Ismael Lopez**

Concerts in the Park



Thank you to our Fourth District Councilmember Daryl Supernaw for a generous gift that allowed us to upgrade our museum exhibits. Our new, interactive bird display, 'Concerts in the Park', lets visitors hear the different sounds of several common, local birds as their image lights up. Installed in December, it has been wildly popular. We are so excited to have this educational tool that will help answer one of the most commonly asked questions here at the Nature Center. "What was that 'tweeet' I heard out on the trail?" — **Erin Kellogg**

Spring is Coming!

During the winter months in nature, a lot of activity is taking place, albeit below the surface. Then the quiet, hidden busyness gives way to Springtime's bursts of color, pollination and growth. The Nature Center staff also spends the winter months preparing for our busiest time of the year--Spring and Summer. In addition to hundreds of school children who come for tours March through June, we also offer Discovery Workshops during Spring break as well as Nature Kids! Discovery Camp in the summertime.

This year we have an exciting slate of fun classes offered for Spring. Children ages 5 to 8 can join us to learn about birds, reptiles, flowers and rabbits. Summer also promises to be an adventurous time with hunting for Nature Center treasure, getting goosebumpy and transforming into various types of scientists. During the summer, we also offer camp for preschoolers age 3 to 5. More information about our classes can be found on-line at our website longbeach.gov/naturecenter. Registration is on-line at www.lbpc.org. Hope to see you there.
— **Susan Ettinger**

Choose to Help



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” Jane Goodall

When it comes to improving the health of our local beaches and wetlands, you have the power to make a difference. Sometimes it is difficult to know where to start. Close your eyes and imagine yourself down at the beach with your toes in the warm sand and your gaze set on the clear, blue Pacific. The breeze carries the smell of salty air as you watch pelicans and dolphins on the hunt for fish. Lapping waves cover and uncover a colorful variety of clam and scallop shells in the shallows. Before you open your eyes and leave this idyllic setting, note that there wasn't one piece of trash floating in the water or scattered on the shore. Nobody's vision should include pollution, yet in reality that is not always the case. You can help change that.

The beach could use some love

Join other members from the local community who want reality to match their vision of a clean and healthy beach. Saturday, April 23 marks our annual Earth Day

Coastal Cleanup in Long Beach. Participation is easy! Please visit www.longbeach.gov/naturecenter or call 570-4876 for more information. Remember, that the smallest act can start a ripple effect. We hope to see you out there on the 23rd!

— **Brooke Davis**

What's Gonna Work?

Team work! It's the name of the game at the Nature Center. Recently our Habitat Stewards volunteers joined the Community Gardens volunteers for a joint work party to clear a shared fenceline overgrown with prickly California Blackberry. Over 70 volunteers from a few local service agencies joined us to clear several hundred feet of invasive vegetation in only 2 hours.

And since our last newsletter, HS volunteers worked on several areas of the Nature Center including removal of hundreds of small Goldenrain tree stumps under Edison power lines. In their place were planted California wildflower seeds, California Buckwheat, Locoweed, Verbena, and other beneficial natives to give new life to the desolate area. Preschool students joined our volunteers in the creation of a mini-wildflower garden along the quarter mile trail. Look for these new habitats at the western end of the quarter mile trail in bloom this Spring.

Our thanks to Susie Archer, Howard Bergh, Irene Bergh, Margaret Brandt, Peggy Brutsche, Ron Creighton, Alan Coles, Susan Csikesz, Brent Devol, Jim Funk, Pinky Gagnon, Nancy Godfrey, Judy Green, Shirley Hansen, Harry Hatanaka, Donna Howard, Roger Howes, Al Kimura, Linda Kovanda, Steve Loken, Kerry Martin, Bill McMurren, Mary McMurren, Dennis Morris, Liz Nash, Rick Nolan, Bob

O'Connor, Jeri Ohta, Natalino Scalas, Don Scales, Jo Ann Smith, Sue Timm, John von Heydenreich, Ken Yliniemi and Bibiana Zatarain for all your time and dedicated service creating and preserving habitat.

— **Donnie Haigh**



Susie Archer along the quarter mile trail.

Mark Your Calendar

Preschool Art Show, Silent Auction, & Open House

Saturday, April 30, 1-3pm

El Dorado Nature Center Resource Training Program

Saturday, March 5, 8:30am - noon

Call Susan Ettinger at (562) 570-4885
for more information or to register.

Special “Friends” Only Event - Spring Equinox Sunrise Walk

Saturday, March 19, 7:00am

Space is limited.

Call (562) 570-1745 for more information.